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Project Safe Neighborhoods Family Day Event Offers Support for Safer Community through Positive Youth Initiatives

Community Program on September 19 to Provide Deterrents to Gang Participation and Youth Violence

Salisbury, NC_September 9, 2009 – Mayor Susan Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council and the Salisbury's Project SAFE Neighborhoods (PSN) program, cordially invites citizens to attend the upcoming PSN Family Day event on Saturday, September 19. Registration will begin at 9:30 am at the J.F. Hurley YMCA, 828 Jake Alexander Blvd. and the event will continue through 2 pm that afternoon. The event marks the fourth in a series of Project SAFE Neighborhoods Family Day events which serve as a positive intervention and prevention program for kids (grades K-5).

Mayor Susan Kluttz, a Project Safe Neighborhoods Task Force Member offers, "On behalf of the Salisbury City Council, I sincerely encourage everyone to attend this wonderful family event which features complimentary food and drinks and free back to school supplies for children." Mayor Kluttz shares that in addition to the exciting door prizes given away during each workshop session, additional grand prize drawings will be held at 2 pm. Winners must be present to claim their prize. Free giveaways will be available to the first 750 attendees and early attendance is strongly encouraged. The Mayor adds, "This event continues to provide strong support for the eight focus areas which our citizens previously identified during our Salisbury-Rowan United Positive Youth Summit. These focus areas provide a positive frame work for our community to uplift constructive opportunities for our youth, while in-turn creating a safer environment for all." Informational displays and booths will offer well-trained staff that can provide attendees with available opportunities for youth and parents to become involved in the areas of: Mentoring & Tutoring, Recreational Opportunities/Athletics, Parenting Classes, Schools and School Based Programs, and support from the Faith Community.

Deputy Chief Rory Collins, Project SAFE Program Director for the Salisbury Police Department offers, "These community events provide a constructive setting for our citizens and generate awareness for a variety of positive youth opportunities. Family Day programs offer vast resources and provide the opportunity for kids to become involved in affirmative activities and to interact with positive role models as mentors. Children are often targeted for gang activity at a very young age and by involving youth in positive activities, we can potentially discourage their involvement in future gang activity. Children often desire to become a part of organizations that provide a group or team environment; our goal is to share the many positive venues that are available to them and to steer children in the direction of constructive involvement." In response, Family Day will offer excitement and education for children through the X-R-Cade Workshop for

Kids, inflatable activities such as the moon bounce and giant slide, educational and entertaining movies, and a variety of interactive games. Children will also have the opportunity to meet McGruff the Crime Dog.

Informational booths and displays will include: Project Safe Neighborhoods, Youth Services Bureau, Rowan Partners for Education, Salisbury Parks & Recreation, Rowan County YMCA, Girl Scouts, LINKS, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Livingstone's Gang Prevention Study, the Youth in Action against Tobacco Council, and the Department of Social Services. Available informational workshops for parents will include: Gangs and Curfew Awareness, Parenting through Tough Times, and Drug Proofing Your Child. Classes will be held at 10 am, 10:30 am, 11 am, 11:30 am, 12 noon and 12:30 pm. Attendees in each workshop will be eligible to participate in exciting door prize drawings.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federally funded program, created to reduce violent gun crime by partnering volunteer citizens with law enforcement. Past violent offenders are notified that their crimes must stop and those willing to change their ways are assisted with available resources. Those offenders that do not heed the warnings by local law enforcement officials and accept community support will receive the maximum allowable sentence for future crimes. For more information regarding Project SAFE Salisbury, visit www.salisburync.gov/projectsafe/safesalisbury.htm. For questions regarding the Project SAFE Family Day event, please contact Project SAFE Coordinator Teresa Vinson at 704-638-2175.

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